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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Political Organization and Internal Situation of Albania

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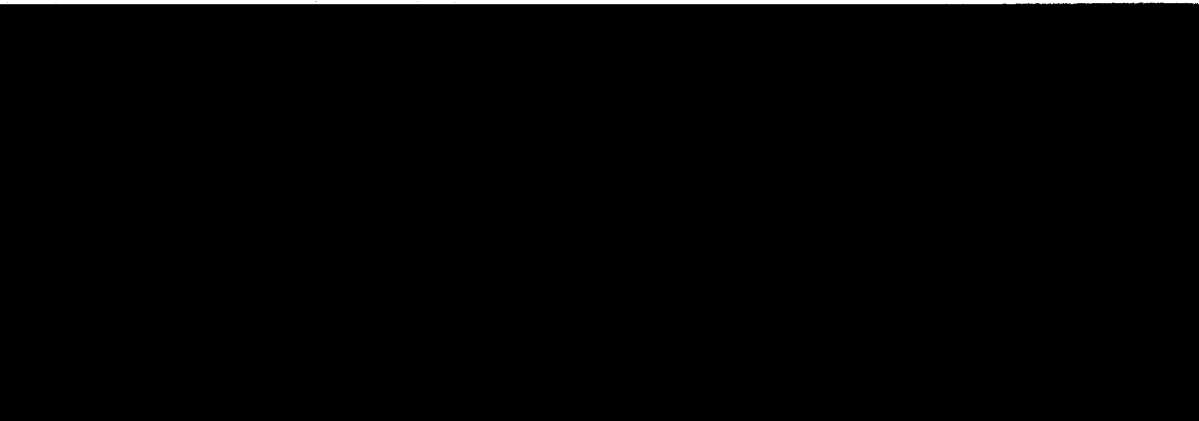
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A. Composition of the Albanian Government

1. According to the existing system of the People's Democracy the legislative power is exercised by the Parliament, and the executive power is exercised by the Government. This division is only formal, however, and serves no other purpose than to give a legal basis to the decisions of the Politburo and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Albania. Thus any law or decree is given in its main lines by the Politburo to be worked out in detail by the Central Committee of the Party and then communicated to the appropriate Minister of the Government (most of whom are also members of the Central Committee of the Party). The Minister introduces a corresponding law into Parliament, where it is passed without debate and without a dissenting vote.
2. The Parliament consists of about 100 deputies. The Presiding Officer of the Parliament is Dr. Omer Nishani, a veterinarian from Gjinokaster. He is not a member of the Party but is trusted by it. The Deputy Presiding Officer is Sami Baholi, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and representative of the Cominform in Albania. Some of the members of the Parliament do not belong to the Party, but this is only for reasons of expediency. The members of the Parliament are chosen by the people, but no one becomes a candidate unless he has been nominated by the Party; and the people may vote only for persons so nominated.
3. The Government has decided to increase the number of members of the Parliament. Informant does not know why this was to be done, but it was rumored that the number would be doubled.
4. During sessions of the Parliament only members of the Party are allowed to attend, and then only by special invitation. The session is broadcast by loudspeakers to the people unless there is a discussion of delicate matters when the Party prohibits the broadcast.

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5. The chief officials of the Albanian Government are as follows:

Enver Hoxha<sup>1</sup>: Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of War.  
 Vasil Nathanail: Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, from Muzina.  
 Beqir Balluku<sup>2</sup>: Vice-Minister for War.  
 Adil Tsatsanis (Fadil Gargani-?): Secretary to the Prime Minister, with power to sign for him, from Fusubardhi.

Mehmet Shehu<sup>3</sup>: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.  
 Salih Ormani<sup>4</sup>: Vice-Minister of Interior, a former porter from a village near Vlone.  
 Kadri Hazbiu<sup>5</sup>: Vice-Minister of Interior, from Vlone.

Tuk Jakova<sup>6</sup>: Deputy Prime Minister.

Spiro Koleka: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works.  
 Muharrem Spahiu (?): Vice Minister of Public Works.

Rigo Ngjela: Minister of Commerce, from Siperi, near Zagorje.  
 Vasil Kate: Vice-Minister of Commerce, from Kishovova.  
 Alexis Latrou: Vice-Minister of Commerce, from Delvine.  
 Nikola Profti: Vice-Minister of Commerce, from Tirana.  
 Menelaos Boulkas: General Secretary, from Perret.

Abdyl Kellezi: Minister of Finance, from Tirana.

Gago Tashko<sup>7</sup>: Minister of Agriculture, from Korce.  
 Haki Toska: Vice-Minister of Agriculture, from Gjinokaster.  
 Veli Pipa: Vice-Minister of Agriculture, from Vlone.  
 Miti Bozo: Vice-Minister of Agriculture, from Vlone.  
 Strati Pappas: General Secretary, from Delvine.

Abedin Shehu<sup>8</sup>: Minister of Communications.

Khafer Spahiu<sup>9</sup>: Minister of Industry, from Dibra.

Manol Kononi: Minister of Justice.

Medar Shtylla: Minister of Public Health.  
 Eloni Terezi: Vice-Minister of Public Health, from Korce.  
 Thomas Hariti: Vice-Minister of Public Health, from Sarande.  
 Serif Klosi: Vice-Minister of Public Health, from Mallakastra.

Kahreman Ylli: Minister of Public Education, from Skrapari.  
 Kadri Babot: Vice-Minister of Public Education, from Gjinokaster.  
 Shamsi Totozani: Vice-Minister of Public Education, from Gjinokaster.

Haxhi Lleshi: Chairman of State Control Commission.

Kogo Xhori: Director of Labor, from Lushki(?).

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6. The Ministries of War, Foreign Affairs, and Interior are controlled by the Prime Minister. The other Ministries are controlled by the Control Committee, although they are also under the general supervision of the Prime Minister.

#### B. Regional Administration

7. In the capitals of the former Provinces and Districts there are now Komitete (regional administrations), e.g., at Gjinokaster, Topolani, Sarande, Premet, Vlone, Fier, Lushnja, Kavaja, Durres, Shijak, Tirana, Elbasan, Gramsh, Pegin, Korce, Bilitza, Pogradec, Leskoviki, Berat, Corovot, Mallakastira, Shkoder, Llesh, Koplik, Kruja, Dibra, Bakes and Peskopijs. In the place of the former communes there are today the Lokalitete (local administrations), e.g., Delvine, Gjorgucat, Libohovo, Policani, etc. The smallest administrative unit is the "People's Council" of the village, which consists of the Chairman, the Secretary and two or three members.
8. The administrative committees of the Komitete<sup>10</sup> and Lokalitete are ostensibly elected by the people, but in reality they are removed and appointed by the Government, which at election time designates its own nominees through the Party organizations.
9. Both in the Komitete and in the Lokalitete there is an Aktiv (meeting) once or twice a month. In the Komitete the chairmen and secretaries of the Lokalitete take part in the Aktiv, and in the Lokalitete Aktiv representatives of the People's Councils of the villages take part. Besides the above regular Aktives, special meetings (Mbledhjet e Jasht Zakoneshme) are called whenever necessary.
10. The administrative composition of the Komitete, through the presence of the representatives of almost all the Ministries, gives them unlimited power to cover all the various relations, demands, and needs of the citizens, and also to give definite solutions to all questions which may arise at any time. It is very seldom that circumstances exist in which the problems of the people exceed the jurisdiction of the Komitete. Even more rarely does the Government differ from the solution which has been given by the regional administrations. Thus the whole administrative system, despite its apparently completely centralized character with the Komitete directly subordinate to the Prime Minister, is in actuality rather decentralized.
11. In charge of the Komitete is the Chairman and General Secretary, who is responsible to the Communist Party of Albania. There is also a council consisting of the chiefs of sections of all the Ministries which are represented in the Komitete. These sections of the Ministries report not only to the Chairman of the Komitete but also to their respective Ministries. The Ministries of War, Foreign Affairs, and Interior, and the Control Committee for State Ministries do not have corresponding sections in the Komitete.
12. In charge of the Lokalitete is the Chairman and Secretary, who is necessarily at the same time the representative and "responsible" of the Communist Party for the area. In the Lokalitete there are only offices of the Ministries of Collection, Supply and Agriculture, and Office of Vital Statistics.
13. The chairmen of the Komitete are directly subordinate to the office of the Prime Minister, and are appointed and removed by him. The chairmen of the Lokalitete are directly subordinate to the Komitete.

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14. Consequently, the Komitet provides a strong administrative system where absolute power is concentrated, except that it is not an independent organization but is controlled at all times by the Government.
15. The Chairman of the Komitet is "responsible" and is accountable to the Prime Minister for all questions arising in his region. The Secretary is charged with attending to the correspondence and has the right to sign instead of the Chairman.
16. In the Komitet there is a personnel section under a director who is concerned with all the questions and problems of the personnel of the Komitet.

C. Functions of Ministerial Sections in the Komiteti.

17. The Ministerial sections represented in the Komitet Council (cf. para. 11 above) are as follows:
  - a. Commercial Section: Director, assistant, and secretary. This section cooperates with the Sections for Collection of Foodstuffs and Cooperatives. It attends to providing clothing and food articles to the special stores and to the cooperatives, issuing ration books, and controlling the distribution of supplies.
  - b. Section for Collection of Foodstuffs: Director, Secretary, "Responsible" for the Plan, "Responsible" for Statistics, Accountant, and warehouse men. This section is interested in enforcing the obligatory delivery of crops to the State. The articles so collected are turned over to the Commercial Section and the Section for Cooperatives.
  - c. Section for Cooperatives: When the proper quantity of foodstuffs and clothing has been stored on the basis of the "plan", this section distributes them (the excess-?) to the stores (cooperatives), Komiteta, and Lokaliteta.
  - d. Section for Finance: Director, deputy director, inspector with a number of agents and a number of accountants. This section assesses and collects the taxes and checks the accounts of the financial transactions of the other Sections of the Komitet.
  - e. Agriculture Section: Director, deputy director, secretary, man responsible for crop rotation, veterinary with assistants, forester and forest guards, agronomist and his assistants. This Section is engaged in the distribution of seed and seeing to greater productivity of the farms, the protection of the forests, and the health and care of the flocks and herds belonging to the state.
  - f. Communications Section: Chief of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone with his personnel (telephone operators, etc.); chief of the transportation office.
  - g. Justice Section: People's Prosecutor, assistant prosecutor, and clerks, Presiding Magistrate of the People's Court, his assistant and clerks. The People's Court is composed of four persons: Presiding Magistrate, his assistant, the People's Prosecutor, and the Clerk of the People's Court. In the Lokaliteta there is no People's Court except that in each village there is a People's Prosecutor chosen by the people; this prosecutor serves without pay on questions within the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace. Civil offenses are tried by the Courts Martial established in the larger towns of Albania. A General People's Prosecutor is in charge of the judicial officials of the country; his headquarters are in Tirana, and the present incumbent is Gago Floqi, from Korce. The Supreme People's Court in Tirana no longer exists, since it has been replaced by the Supreme Court Martial, which has as its presiding magistrate General Bedri Spahiu.

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- h. Health Section: The Director (who is not a physician), his assistant, and nurses. This section looks after the cleanliness of the towns, and the general health of the citizens (vaccination, etc.). There are physicians only in the hospitals.
- i. Planning Section: Director, assistant, and secretary. This section receives from the other sections of the Komitet reports on work performed and prospects on the basis of the "Plan." It forwards these reports to the Ministry of the Plan (sic). After approval or change of these reports they are returned to the Sections to be applied under the rigid control of the Planning Section.
- j. Education Section: Director with two or three inspectors of elementary and intermediate schools.
- k. Labor Section: Labor Office--one employee who finds work for the unemployed. In this office are enrolled all workmen. The office cooperates with the labor organizations.

D. General Economic Situation

- 18. The program of nationalization of everything is still being applied in all sectors of economic activity except farms and herds. All industries and private enterprises, including fishing, have come under State operation. There are a very few independent craftsmen and shopkeepers, and they like the farmers and herdsmen are subjected to such a heavy taxation that they are necessarily led to collectivization in spite of their efforts to date to protect themselves from it. There is no free trade, either inside the country or with foreign countries. Imports and exports are handled by the State, and there is no room whatsoever for private initiative. Albania has important export trade only with the countries of the Eastern Bloc, particularly with the Soviet Union. The U.S.S.R. takes almost all the production of Albania, to such a point that Albania is actually short of articles which she would ordinarily have in relative abundance.
- 19. Work and production are arranged according to the system of "plans," and there is a special Ministry of the Plan (sic) to see to the results; this Ministry has corresponding sections in the Komiteto.
- 20. Large quantities of petroleum, chrome, olive oil, butter, cheese, salt, and citrus fruits are exported to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania. In exchange there are imported from the U.S.S.R. war materiel, from Rumania small quantities of grain, and from Czechoslovakia and Poland a very small amount of clothing.
- 21. In Albania there are in circulation small coins representing one-half, one and five lek, as well as bills of ten, twenty-five, fifty, one hundred, one thousand, and five thousand lek. The dollar is set at fifty lek. Foreign currency must be exchanged through the bank.
- 22. The pay scale is as follows:
  - a. Manual labor (woodcutters, road laborers, etc.) 70 to 100 lek per day.
  - b. Skilled labor (cabinet makers, mechanics, builders, blacksmiths, shoemakers, etc.) 5,000 to 10,000 lek per month.
  - c. Drivers: 3,500 to 5,000 lek per month. Assistants 3,500 lek.

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- d. Government employees: clerks to secretaries first grade 2,000 to 3,000 lek; section chiefs 3,600 to 4,000 lek; directors 4,500 to 5,000 lek; Under Secretaries 7,000 to 9,000 lek; Ministers 12,000 to 15,000 lek.
- e. Pharmacists: 3,000 to 4,000 lek per month.
- f. Physicians and lawyers: 5,000 lek per month with the right to private practice in their free hours.
- g. Soldiers: enlisted man 100 lek per month; sergeant 200 lek; first sergeant 2,000 to 3,000 lek; warrant officer 3,500 to 4,000 lek; second lieutenant 4,500 lek; first lieutenant 4,500 to 5,000 lek; captain A' and B' Class 5,000 to 5,500 lek; major 6,000 to 7,000 lek; lieutenant colonel 7,000 to 8,000 lek; colonel 8,000 to 10,000 lek; general 15,000 lek.

(Where the salaries of men holding the same rank, whether officers or government employees, vary between certain limits above, this indicates that the pay is determined on the basis of the importance of the position and the responsibility of each man.)

23. The food situation of the Albanian people is exceedingly bad. The prices of necessities in the cooperatives and special cooperatives and in the free market are as follows:

<u>Cooperatives</u>	<u>Special Cooperatives</u>	<u>Free Market</u>
Milk 23 lek	40 lek	50-60 lek
Bread 5 lek	40 lek	70 lek
Olive Oil 60 lek	600 lek	800 lek
Sugar 23-25 lek	300 lek	
Soap 60 lek	200 lek	

Cigarettes 12-30 lek for a pack of 20 according to quality.

Suit 3,000 lek	12,000 lek	15,000 lek
Shoes 500 lek	1,000 lek	1,000 lek

24. Taxation is very heavy, and is the principal weapon in the hands of the government in putting down the opposition of the peasants and the herdsmen to collectivization.
25. Some of the taxes are as follows:
- a. Packages from abroad are taxed at 90 percent of their value on the free market. Since nobody can pay such a tax the bundles are always confiscated and sent to the special cooperatives. As a result of this tax almost all sending of packages from abroad has been discontinued.
  - b. Taxes on herds and flocks are paid in kind and in money. Initially the tax is calculated on the value of each lamb, and a tax of 25 percent has to be paid in money. Then a tax of 10 percent is assessed on the weight of each lamb which is valued at 12 lek per kilogram. A kilogram of wool is required in kind for each lamb, or this may be paid in money at 30 lek per kilogram. As payment for public pasture the shepherds must turn over 20 kilograms of milk annually for each lamb. The majority of the shepherds cannot pay these terrific taxes and are jailed and sentenced by the courts of the Komitete. They pay off their obligations to the State Treasury by performing a corresponding amount of labor. Recently there were 300 convicted shepherds in the prison at Gjinokaster.

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- c. Taxation on farms is assessed on the number of stremmata under cultivation, and varies according to the productivity of the land. The heaviest taxation is in the vicinity of Tirana. Taxation in the Gjinokaster region is lower. Taxation is calculated on the Plan which is established for each farm and not on the actual produce. The State is interested in acquiring the amount originally determined for each plot of land, no matter what may have happened to reduce production. The tax is estimated at 20 percent of the production. For corn (maize) the tax is increased to 40 percent. Besides this the farmer is obliged to turn over 30 oke (2.8 lbs x 30) of meat, 50 eggs, and two oke of wool for each ten stremmata of land cultivated by him. The tax on animals and trees is assessed in money at 20 percent of the value of the animal or tree as follows:

mules	9,000 lek each
goats	700 lek each
lambs	700 lek each
cows	7,000 lek each
fig trees	600 lek each
fruit trees	300 lek each
grape vines	300 lek each
beehives	9,000 lek each

The same thing has happened to the farmers that happened to the herdsmen, and many of them have been arrested for not paying their taxes. Informant heard that in 1950 taxation was to be even heavier.

- d. Informant does not know anything definite about taxation of the few remaining shopkeepers. Workmen and employees do not pay any taxes, except for their contributions to their unions.

#### E. Agriculture and Production

26. The whole Agrarian Policy is directed by the Ministry of Agriculture, which has corresponding sections in the Komitete to pay close attention to the application of the program to the Lokalitete and the villages.
27. Collectivization is incomplete in the agricultural sector of the economy only because of the opposition of the peasants. [redacted] very few farms in the vicinity of the village of Suha near Korce have been collectivized and in another village near Fier. The living conditions of the farmers who have formed the collectives have persuaded the rest not to follow their example.
28. The collectives are subordinate to the Agriculture Section of the Komitet; they are under the immediate supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and are directed by those composing the collective, assisted by a secretary and an accountant. The produce all goes to the State, and the peasants are regarded as employees. In the villages they are allowed to keep a part of the crop for their own food, and they are provided with ration cards for various articles to be obtained from the Cooperatives (i.e., clothing, shoes, olive oil, etc.). On farms near the Komitet they give them ration cards for all articles which must be obtained from the Cooperatives, and the amount depends on their work and productivity with a very small additional amount depending on the crop. The peasants are allowed one or two stremmata as a kind of garden to be cultivated just as they like, and the crop belongs exclusively to them.
29. Some of the articles are furnished by the Cooperatives gratis on the basis of the ration cards, while other articles must be paid for, but under the collective system it is impossible for the peasant in the collective to have money, because the entire crop is turned over to the

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State which furnishes gratis the means of mechanical cultivation. The misery of this system and the veritable theft of the work of the peasant have created the successful opposition of the peasants to collectivization thus far.

30. In addition to the Collective Farms there are also State Farms (ferma) of 1,000 to 3,000 stremmata. These farms previously belonged to the large landowners (Bejlere) who fled to Italy after nationalization or were imprisoned by the regime. The farms are directly under the Ministry of Agriculture, and they have the same directorate whose composition is as follows: Director, Deputy Director, Comptroller, "Responsible" for the Plan, "Responsible" for Statistics, Accountant and Agronomist. Cultivation is done very systematically, and the workmen are paid according to the work done by each; they belong to their own labor unions, and they live without rent in the houses on the farm. The laborers each cultivate two or three stremmata for themselves, and they receive all their food, usually from the Cooperatives through ration cards.

31. There are ferma in the following parts with the names designated below:

Tirana:	11 Ikouki Kambis	Kuqova:	Partisani
Qafzotaj:	Maliki Muto	Korce:	Flamuri Kuki
Sukth:	Ten Nedori	Laprahe:	17 Naduri
Kavaja:	Kayo Karafili	Kiar Ardi (near Skodra)	
Vlone:	Lakatund		

In addition to the above there are State olive groves at Berat, Elbasan and Vlone.

32. The workers in the State factories are the most fortunate class of labor in Albania, and they are all trusted members of the Party.
33. The farm machinery (mostly tractors) is all of Soviet type--S.T.Z. and Farmall. There are also Hofershaf (sic) threshing machines. There are 200 tractors and 50 threshing machines available, in addition to the 100 tractors which are permanently assigned to the State farms. The available machines have been distributed among Machinery Centers (Mihanik Vuhisore) which are directly under the Ministry of the Interior (sic) and have their own directorate as follows: Director, Deputy Director, Secretary, Accountant, "Responsible" for the Plan, and "Responsible" for Statistics. The machinery is distributed among the centers as follows:

Fusha e Krujes (near Tirana)	30 machines
Durres	40 machines
Fier	60 machines
Lushnja	60 machines
Kuqova	40 machines
Vlone	30 machines

Farm machinery is loaned to the Collective Farms free of charge and to the peasant owners for a payment of 50 lek per stremma.

34. Chemical fertilizers are imported from the Soviet Union but the peasants do not use them because they are not suitable (sic) for their soil.
35. The system of farm ownership is in a very strange state and the conditions of work and the living standards of the peasants are miserable as a result of the measures taken against them by the Government.

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36. The amount of land in private possession depends on what the members of the family can cultivate, and the production and taxation are calculated on this amount. If the family is not able to cultivate all the land, it is taken away from them and given to others able to cultivate it.
37. Through the heavy taxation the peasants are driven to collectivization, although they would prefer to go to jail, because the life on the Collective Farms is even worse than their own.
38. The amount of the crop to be delivered to the Government is determined by the Ministry of the Plan through its corresponding sections in the Komiteto, and this is the most onerous measure, because the peasant is obliged to turn over to the State a quantity based on the estimated production and not on the actual harvest. Furthermore the peasants are deprived of ration cards for food, clothing, etc., from the Cooperatives and have to get these goods from the Special Cooperatives (Kooperativa Speciale) at high prices, although the prices are reduced by half if the peasants sell their surplus products to the Special Cooperatives. This, however, is not satisfactory because the surplus foodstuffs have to be sold to the Special Cooperatives at the very low prices prevailing in the regular Cooperatives for rationed goods. Thus there is a very great difference between the purchase price and the price at which goods are sold, and the value of the peasants' products in this way is reduced to half their market value. For this reason the peasants sell their products on the free market wherever possible.
39. Thus if a peasant has two oke of butter for sale and wants to buy sugar, he will sell the butter to the Special Cooperative for 120 lek an oke (the price at the regular Cooperative for rationed goods), but he will buy the sugar at 150 lek (the price at the Special Cooperative) and not at 25 lek (the price at the regular Cooperative for rationed goods).
40. All the measures related above constitute the compulsion for the free peasants to collectivize and are a part of the policy of the Government which makes the misery of the farm population intolerable.
41. The same tactics are followed in livestock raising with the aim of compelling the shepherds to form livestock cooperatives. The opposition of the shepherds is almost 100 percent. Informant knows of one such livestock cooperative (Kooperativa Blektorale) in Kurvelesh. It consists of small herds with a total of 5,000 sheep and goats. The Cooperative is directed by a Director assisted by an accountant and a "Responsible" for statistics. The Cooperative is under the Agriculture Section of the Komiteto. The officials are paid very generously (5,000 to 6,000 lek), whereas the herdsmen composing the Cooperative hardly manage to obtain the necessities of life.
42. In addition to the Kooperativa Blektorale there are ten brigades (sic) of State herds (Brigada Blektorale), each of which contains 2,000 to 2,500 sheep and goats.
43. Independent herdsmen are permitted to have up to 400 sheep and goats each, and they live under the same circumstances as the independent peasants. None of them is interested in increasing his herd or flock, since this will benefit only the Brigada Blektorale.

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44. The chief agricultural products of Albania are produced in the following regions:

- a. Wheat and corn: Gjinokaster, Sarande, Vlone, Fier, Lushnja, Kavaja, Durres, Shijak, Tirana, Kruja, Korce, Elbasan and Berat.
- b. Tobacco: Gjinokaster, Lesh, Elbasan and Shkoder.
- c. Rice: Sarande, Elbasan.
- d. Grapes: Gjinokaster, Premeti, Sarande, Vlone, Elbasan.
- e. Olives: Elbasan, Berat, Kosok (sic), Sarande, Vlone.
- f. Citrus fruits: Sarande, Elbasan.
- g. Apples: Pogradec, Bilisht, Leskovik.
- h. Other fruits: Elbasan.
- i. Potatoes, barley, beets: Korce.
- j. Poultry: Fier, Berat, Kosok (sic).

#### F. Collection and Distribution

- 45. The collection of products taxed in kind is under the direction of the General Supreme Komitet for Collection of Foodstuffs (Komiteti Per Grumbullimin e Ushqimevet), which has sections for collection in each Komitet (Grumbullimi Fuqi-Plote). Each section for collection in the Komitet has a warehouse where the products of the taxation of the peasants and herdsmen are collected on the basis of the Plans set for them.
- 46. When the collection has been completed the Section for Collection reports to the General Komitet for Collection which in turn, after consulting with the Ministry of Commerce and the General Komitet for Cooperatives, issues an order for distribution of each product to the various Cooperatives, to the Army, the hospitals, etc. Through another special order the quantity is determined for export to the Soviet Union through the port of Durres.
- 47. The production of the Craftsmen's Cooperatives is reported to the General Komitet of Craftsmen's Cooperatives. The latter takes into account the statements of requirements submitted by the directorates of the Cooperatives of the Komitete and issues an order for distribution to the various cooperatives, to the Army, to hospitals, etc., in accordance with the statements of quantities required submitted by the Administration of the Komitete.

#### G. Cooperatives

- 48. Trade inside the country functions through the system of Cooperatives, of which there are the following kinds:
  - a. Cooperatives for rationed goods (Triske).
  - b. Special Cooperatives (Speciale).

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- c. Cooperatives of craftsmen (Artizanatit).
  - d. Cooperatives of Public Officials (Dyqan Special per Fonksionarët e Shtetit).
  - e. Cooperatives of Officers (Dyqan i Oficerëve).
  - f. Cooperatives of Lokalitete.
49. The whole system of Cooperatives is under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce which works with the General Komitet of craftsmen's cooperatives (Komiteti Përgjithshëm i Kooperativave të Artizanatit) and with the General Komitet of Cooperatives (Komiteti i Përgjithshëm i Kooperative).
50. In each Komitet there is a corresponding Directorate of Cooperatives directly subordinate to the General Komitet of Cooperatives. It is divided into two principal sections, the section for Cooperatives for rationed goods (Kooperativa me Triske) and the section for Special Cooperatives (Kooperative Speciale), and these sections are responsible for the various cooperatives in their district.
51. The Directorate of Cooperatives in the Komitet consists of the following functionaries: Director, Deputy Director, accountant, "Responsible" for the Plan, "Responsible" for statistics, representative of the section for cooperatives for rationed goods, and representative of the section for Special Cooperatives.
52. The Section for cooperatives for rationed goods is directed by a Section Chief and by the "Responsible" for supervising the ration cards. The Section for Special Cooperatives is under a Director and a representative for the various Special Cooperatives.
53. In each Cooperative there are a Director, an accountant and three to five clerks.
54. In each Komitet there are the following Cooperatives for rationed articles:
- a. Cooperative for various foodstuffs (Kooperativa për Ushqime të Ndrushme).
  - b. Cooperative for vegetable sellers (K. Zerzëvateve).
  - c. Cooperative for fruit sellers (K. Frutave).
  - d. Cooperative for meat (K. Mishit).
  - e. Cooperative for milk (K. Qumështit).
  - f. Cooperative for coal or charcoal (Qymyrit e druve).
  - g. Cooperative for shoes and clothing (K. e Veshmbathjes).
  - h. Cooperative restaurant (K. Restorant), with one or two courses at eight to ten lek per portion.
  - i. Cooperative hotel (K. Hoteli), 22 lek per bed.
  - j. Cooperative bakery (K. e Furrave).

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55. The workers and employees obtain articles from the Cooperatives for rationed goods at low prices, but in a quantity determined by the kind of ration card.
56. In the Komitete there are the same types of Special Cooperatives and also Cooperative Pastry Shops and Coffee Shops (Ko. Pastave e Kafeneve). The Special Cooperatives for shoes and clothing are directly under the Ministry of Commerce and not under the Directorate of Cooperatives of the Komitete.
57. The Special Cooperatives sell their articles in any quantity desired and at prices almost as high as those of the free market. Through these Special Cooperatives the State competes with the independent merchants, and applies a series of measures which make it practically impossible for the independent merchants to operate. The free market is legal only in milk and milk products, vegetables, fruit, eggs, and meat, but the dealer cannot handle more than 500,000 lek worth of such articles. The prices of the articles sold by the Special Cooperatives are regulated in such a way that they are always 10 to 20 percent lower than the prices for the same articles in the free market.
58. The State is ruining the independent merchants not only through competing with lower prices, but also through the system of selling the surplus products of the independent peasants and herdsmen. The State buys the surplus products of the peasants at the low prices of the Cooperatives for rationed goods, but it sells to the peasants (who sell them their surplus products) all kinds of articles at half the normal prices of the Special Cooperatives.
59. If the peasants follow this path and sell for 10 and buy for 20, they are condemned to a much smaller purchasing power than they would normally have. Therefore they sell their products to the independent dealers at wholesale prices of the free market and obtain money with which they purchase necessities from the Special Cooperatives whose prices are much lower than the free market.
60. In this way the peasants, who are the principal customers of the Special Cooperatives, since they do not have ration books, by selling to the independent merchants keep the purchasing power of their own products intact, but it is impossible for the independent merchants to reach an agreement with these peasants whereby they will be obliged to purchase their necessities from the free market, because the free market is legal only in those goods which are surplus among the peasants.
61. Thus a vicious circle is created, whereby the peasants and the independent dealers have the same articles for sale, and the independent dealers cannot satisfy the needs of the peasants who have to resort to the Special Cooperatives. Under these circumstances the free market is limited in kind and quantity and it competes with the State only by offering a higher quality and by taking advantage of shortages of certain articles in the Special Cooperatives.
62. There are often shortages of goods in the Special Cooperatives, because all the products of the peasants have been sold to the independent dealers, and the Special Cooperatives have only the surplus from the State collection of products after the needs of the Cooperatives for rationed goods have been satisfied.

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63. Nevertheless, the free market is going to be completely strangled by the taxation which is carefully regulated to cover the varying operations of that market.
64. A black market is in operation but it is very limited because of the severe measures taken by the Sigurimi.
65. In the Special Hotel Cooperatives the price of a bed varies from 32 to 100 lek according to the hotel, and one portion of meat varies from 22 to 50 lek, according to the kind of meat.
66. The craftsmen's Cooperatives are subordinate to the Directorate of Craftsmen's Cooperatives of the Komiteta (Drejtorija e Kooperativa e Artizanatit), which in turn is subordinate to the General Komitat of Craftsmen's Cooperatives (Komiteti Përgjithshëm të Artizanatit) in Tirana.
67. The Directorate of the Craftsmen's Cooperatives of the Komiteta is composed as follows: Director, Deputy Director, Accountant, "Responsible" for the Plan, "Responsible" for statistics. In an individual craftsmen's cooperative there are the "Responsible," Accountant, and Foreman.
68. In a Komitet there will be found the following Craftsmen's Cooperatives:
- Lantern-makers.
  - Carpenters and cabinetmakers.
  - Blacksmiths.
  - Saddle-makers.
  - Tailors.
  - Shoemakers.
  - Barbers.
  - Builders.
  - House painters.
  - Porters.
69. Those who work in the Craftsmen's Cooperatives are day laborers who are paid by the State only for the days on which they work. They do, however, receive overtime pay like technicians. The rate of pay depends on their classification. A technician Class A' among the shoemakers and cabinet-makers receives 100 to 150 lek per day, Class B' receives 90 to 100 lek per day. Moreover, if they surpass the "Plan" (norm) for the day they receive a 30 percent bonus.
70. The special Cooperatives for Public Officials supply all articles without ration cards and in any quantity and at low prices comparable to the prices of the Cooperatives for rationed goods. These special Cooperatives supply the members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, the senior members of the Government, the officers from the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and up, and the Soviets situated in Albania.
71. Cooperatives for officers below the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and junior government employees furnish articles on presentation of ration cards. But the quantities furnished are 10 percent larger than for the ordinary ration cards.

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72. The Cooperatives of the Lokalitete furnish articles to the families of soldiers and government employees. They do not have to have a ration card, but there is a series of priorities. The articles furnished are salt, worn out tires for shoes, and certain kinds of clothing which are sold at the same price charged at the Cooperatives for rationed goods.

H. Industry

73. All industries have been nationalized and are under the Ministry of Industry. They are operated on the system of "Plans" which are determined by the Ministry of the Plan in consultation with the Ministry of Industry. There is a "plan" for the production of each factory or shop, but this is practically never achieved.
74. Each factory is directed by a Manager assisted by the Assistant Manager, the "Responsible" for the plan, and the "Responsible Technical Adviser." This administrative committee of the factory studies the potential of production, and through the "Responsible" for the plan submits to the Ministry of Industry a report on the maximum potential of production of the factory. The Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of the Plan then formulates a new plan which always calls for greater production than the potential reported by the factory committee.
75. There are power stations in Tirana, Gjinokaster, Shkoder, Korçe, Elbasan, Durres, Vlone, Berat, Sarande, Fier, Lushnja, and Kavaja. A hydro-electric power plant is under construction in Tirana to use the water of the Selita River for power and also for water supply for Tirana.

76. [REDACTED] following industries:

- a. Cement factory: Shkoder.
- b. Tanneries: Gjinokaster (two), Shkoder (two), Korçe, Elbasan, Vlone, and Fier.
- c. Flour mills: Durres (three), Fier, Shkoder, Korçe.
- d. Tobacco factories: Durres (two), Sarande, Korçe, Elbasan, Tirana, Shkoder, and Gjinokaster.
- e. Upholstered furniture: Vlone, Durres, Elbasan, Sarande, Shkoder, and Lushnja.
- f. Marmelade: Vlone and Elbasan.
- g. Oil mills: Vlone, Himara, Lakatuni.
- h. Brewery: Korçe.
- i. Sugar refinery: Korçe, Maliq (under construction).
- j. Textiles: Tirana (under construction).
- k. Rubber articles: Durres.
- l. Cotton gin: Kavaja.
- m. Enver Hoxha Machine Shops: Tirana

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- n. Oil Fields: Kucova and Patos.
- o. Oil refinery: Kucova.
- p. Mines: Coal: Mahmut Cjinaj, Tepeleni, Rubnik, Kukes and Salita.  
 Chrome-iron: Rubnik, Kukes and Bunhiz (sic).  
 Copper: Rubnik.  
 Salt: Vlone and Sarande.

(Informant does not know anything definite about production, number of workmen, pay and working conditions, etc. in any of the above industries.)

# I. Economic Situation of the Workers

- 77. The working day is supposed to be eight hours, but in reality it is doubled (sic) without the workers being paid for overtime. The technicians, however, do receive pay for overtime.
- 78. There is great unemployment but the employment offices in the Komiteto send those seeking work to work on the construction of the railroad line from Pegin to Elbasan. The daily wage on this project is 80 lek, and for that reason no one wants to work for it.
- 79. There are official withholdings from the pay of the workers and employees, and there are also contributions for the compulsory funds which are always called "voluntary." The following amounts are withheld:
  - a. For the labor unions: 150 lek per month.
  - b. Members of the Party (for the Party): 250 lek per month.
  - c. For the Red Cross: five lek per month.
  - d. For the Youth: two lek per month.

In addition the workers are obliged to deposit their wages in the State bank (Banka Komtare) under a strange system; periodically they are notified that the wages of one week will all be deposited in the Banka Komtare, and for this purpose all the workers and employees are provided with bank deposit slips.

- 80. Conditions of work are miserable, and payment is mediocre. Because of the lack of individual interest the "plans" set by the State are almost never fulfilled.
- 81. Very heavy penalties are imposed for minor mistakes. For example, being one hour late means the withholding of ten days' pay. Absence without notice and without permission is punished by six months' compulsory labor without pay. If there is a repetition of this absence it is regarded as sabotage, and the Sigurimi enters the picture.
- 82. The distribution of food and clothing to the workers and employees is done through ration cards, and these articles are provided by the Cooperatives for rationed articles at low prices. The ration depends on the kind of work done by the individual. There are four kinds of ration books, as follows:
  - a. Ordiner: for members of the worker's family who are unable to work. This gives 400 grams of bread per day per person.

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- b. Rydori (sic) Lehte: (light work): 600 grams of bread per day.
- c. Rydori Rende: (heavy work): 800 grams of bread per day.
- d. Rydore Rende No. 1: (heavy work No. 1): 900 grams of bread per day.

Informant does not remember the quantities of food other than bread issued on the ration books, but they were in quantities proportional to the amount of bread authorized by each card. Both workers and employees have the right to purchase articles at the Special Cooperatives, but the prices there are too high for them.

- 83. Bonuses for the best workers and employees take the form of trips to summer resorts for 15 to 30 days. There is such a place in Tirana for the workers of the Enver Hoxha Factory, and there are others in Durres, Shkoder, Korce, and Pogradec. All workers and employees have the right to 15 days' annual vacation at full pay.

#### J. Communications System

- 84. The highway from Gramsh to Lusan (sic) has been completed.
- 85. About 50 busses are in operation in Albania, and they are exploited by the State. This number is inadequate and if a person wants to go from Gjinokaster to Tirana, he has to notify the ticket agency about two weeks in advance.
- 86. The roads generally are in poor condition. It is necessary to make minor repairs continuously.
- 87. Now that the railroad line is completed from Tirana to Durres, Rrogozhine and Peqin, they are studying the construction of a line from Tirana to Elbasan and from Rrogozhine to Kucova.
- 88. The railroad system is served by five locomotives (three Soviet, one Czechoslovak, and one Rumanian) and 30 cars.
- 89. The line from Tirana to Durres has the following stations: Tirana, Kassa, Oaf Zotae, Suk (where there are installations for repair of equipment), Stijak, Durres, Shkola Amerikana, Kavaja, Rrogozhine (water-pumping station), Peqin. The trip takes six hours, and only one train is operating. The train leaves Tirana at 8:00 a.m. and arrives at Peqin at 2:00 p.m.; it leaves Peqin at 4:00 p.m. and arrives at Tirana at 10:00 p.m.
- 90. There are three or four motorships which make the run from Sarande to Vlone, Durres and Shengjin.
- 91. At Durres there are two cranes and many warehouses. These are used for the goods exported to the U.S.S.R. and also for the imported articles. Very few things are exported through the port of Vlone and from the port of Shengjin where there are warehouses. The harbor of Sarande has no activity.
- 92. There is only one airplane at the Tirana airdrome. This is a plane of Yugoslav construction used for the mail service to Bulgaria.
- 93. There are automatic telephones only in Tirana and all of them (about 250) have been placed in the Ministries, the public services, and in the houses of the members of the Government, of the Central Committee and of the Politburo.

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94. [REDACTED] telephone numbers:

- 20-00: Office of N. Kokaveshi, in the Directorate of Organization in the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 20-93: Central exchange of the Public Services.
- 20-00: Central exchange for the Prime Minister's Office.
- 0 : Information.

There is telegraphic communication over the following network: Tirana-Gjinokaster-Vlone-Korce-Elbasan-Shkoder-Berat-Topeleni-Kukes-Peshklis(sic-Peshkopi)-Sarande-Fier-Lushnja-Kavaja.

- 95. There are long-distance telephone lines from Tirana to all the Komitete, and all the Komitete are connected by telephone with all the Lokalitete. The lines are all carried on poles, and the circuits are not in good condition. Connections with distant points, such as between Tirana and Kukes or Tirana and Gjinokaster, or Tirana and Shkoder are so poor that it is almost impossible to hear anything.
- 96. The postal service is developed so that mail passes through the Komitete to the Lokalitete where there are paid postmen (government employees) who give mail service to the villages.

K. Justice

- 97. The Minister of Justice is Manol Konomi. The organization of Justice in Albania is under the familiar system of People's Courts, and the whole mechanism is under the immediate control of the State which, through the Minister of Justice, exercises absolute power over the judges. The latter are usually uneducated fanatical Communists, and in many cases are ignorant peasants.
- 98. The People's Courts are organized as follows:
  - a. In the villages judicial authority is exercised by the Keshilla (committee of villages), where there is an unpaid prosecutor chosen from the inhabitants of the village. The jurisdiction of the Keshilla is even more limited than that of a justice of the peace, and it acts chiefly to iron out disputes between peasants and to solve their little differences. If the case is more serious the prosecutor sends the litigants to the next higher court, the People's Court of the Komitete.
  - b. The People's Court of the Komitete (Gjyqi Civil) is composed of five members: the Presiding Magistrate, the People's Prosecutor, two members, and the Clerk. The members of this court are civilians; they resolve small disputes and the cases sent to them by the prosecutor of the Keshilla. Most of the cases tried involve petty crimes and violation of the penal law. Cases involving more serious crimes are immediately referred to the next higher court, the Court Martial.
  - c. There are permanent Courts Martial (Gjyqi Ushtrarak) in the cities of Gjinokaster, Vlone, Elbasan, Tirana, Shkoder, and Korce. The members of the court are all military; they are the Presiding Judge of the People's Court, the People's Prosecutor, two members, and the Clerk. This court tries serious offenses against the penal code.

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- d. Above the Permanent Court Martial is the Supreme Court Martial (Gjykata e Lartë Ushtarake) located in Tirana. It has the same form as the Permanent Court Martial. The jurisdiction of this court includes very serious crimes, particularly those against the regime, such as serious cases of sabotage, conspiratorial societies, etc.
- e. Finally there is the Supreme Court of the State (Gjykata e Lartë e Shtetit) which has jurisdiction over the crimes committed by Ministers, Deputy Ministers, members of the Central Committee of the Party, the senior employees of the State, and important personages generally. The Court is composed as follows: Andrea Nathanail, Presiding Magistrate; Bedri Spahiu, People's Prosecutor; Gago Flocq, Member.<sup>12</sup>

The above courts try all cases of a civil or criminal nature. Under the Communist system, however, there are very few civil cases and those are unimportant.

99. The decisions of one court can be appealed to the next higher court within ten days after the decision has been handed down. Petition is made to the court which has tried the case, and only if this court agrees is the appeal to the higher court allowed. This happens rarely, and the decisions of the courts are thus usually final.
100. In the case of the death sentence the condemned man may submit an appeal for pardon to the Parliament. Hoxha also has the right to issue a pardon.
101. Defense of cases is made by lawyers who are paid government employees and are appointed by the State without any other compensation. As a result the defense of the accused is merely formal.
102. Parallel to the courts there is the office of prosecutor. In Tirana there is the office of the Prosecutor General (Prokurorija e Përgjithshme). The Prosecutor General is Gago Flocq. There are corresponding offices in the Komitete called Prokurori. The prosecutors have the duty of seeing to the observance of the laws and bringing the accused before the proper courts.
103. Justice is always dispensed with the Communist character of the accused as a criterion. The accused is always judged according to the recommendation of the prosecutor, and the decision handed down can be reversed at will by the Central Committee of the Party through the Minister of Justice according to the convicted man's views and his devotion to the Party.

#### L. Education

104. Education throughout the country is under the supervision of the Ministry of Education through the corresponding sections of the Komitete, which include two or three inspectors of intermediate and elementary education under the immediate control of the Director of Education.
105. However, education is really directed by the General Directorate of Press and Propaganda of the Central Committee of the Party, which has its representative in the Ministry of Education, viz. Spiro Djai (sic-Khaj-?) from Sofratika, near Deropolis. A large part of the lessons have a Communist content. For example the "History of the Soviet Revolution" is taught, as are the lives of the distinguished Communists. Lectures are also given on the life in the factories, hospitals, universities, etc. of the Soviet Union. In the elementary schools the reading lessons describe the struggles of the Albanian partisans during the occupation and also the battle of the Soviet Union against Germany.

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106. Education in the schools is free. The system is arranged as follows:
- Elementary public schools (in each village) with a four-year course which is compulsory for all.
  - Unike (intermediate schools) are found in all the Komitete and in some Lokalitete. This course lasts three years, after which a student may enter a Gymnasium, a normal school or a technical school.
  - A Gymnasium (secondary school) is located in Gjinokaster, Vlone, Durres, Shkoder, Elbasan, Berat, Korce, and Tirana. The course lasts four years.
  - Normal schools are located in Gjinokaster, Elbasan, Shkoder and Tirana. The course lasts four years after graduation from the Unike. Those who have graduated from the four-year course are appointed as teachers in the elementary schools.
  - Pedagogical Institutes offer a three-year course to graduates from the gymnasia. Graduates are appointed teachers in the Unike.
  - A Teachers' Course is offered to graduates of the Unike. After a six to twelve months' course they are appointed as teachers in the elementary schools.
107. The technical schools are as follows:
- Technical School for surveyors. A prerequisite for matriculation is graduation from the Unike.
  - School of Fine Arts in Tirana. The course lasts four years. There are departments of painting, music, dancing, etc.
  - Agricultural Technical Schools. These are located in Kavaja, Lushnja, and Tirana. The course of study lasts four years after graduation from the Unike.
  - School for Nurses in Tirana. The course of study is for one year following graduation from the elementary school.
  - Midwifery School in Tirana. It offers a one-year course after graduation from the elementary school.
  - Industrial School in Tirana. It gives a three-year course after graduation from the Unike.
  - Commercial School in Tirana. It provides a three-year course after graduation from the Unike.
  - Special School for Doctors' Assistants in Tirana. It offers a three-year course after graduation from the Unike.
108. The following Agricultural Schools are under the Ministry of Agriculture:
- Agriculture School of Lushnja. About 100 to 150 students are admitted from the elementary schools annually. The course of study lasts one year.
  - A higher type of Agricultural School is that at Kavaja. 200-300 students are admitted every year from graduates of the elementary schools. The course of study is three years, and so this is a kind of "middle" Agricultural School.

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- c. A still higher type of Agricultural School is located at Tirana. It admits about 200 students annually, but they must have graduated from the Unike or from the Agricultural School at Kavaja. The course of study lasts four years and is specialized in various branches, such as beekeeping, use of farm machinery, arboriculture, etc. About a fourth of the graduates of the Tirana School are sent to the Soviet Union for advanced studies.
  - d. In the Lushnja and Kavaja schools the training is general, and all branches of farming are taught, i.e. animal husbandry, arboriculture, etc.
  - e. There are also courses of training for the peasants, in which elementary instruction is given in scientific farming.
109. On completing the course at a technical school a student may graduate as an assistant engineer, accountant, doctor's assistant, agronomist's assistant or veterinarian's assistant.
110. There are no schools for higher education in Albania; students aiming at advanced courses are sent to the countries behind the Iron Curtain (the U.S.S.R., Poland, Czechoslovakia or Rumania) at the expense of the State. About 100 to 150 graduates of the gymnasias are sent abroad annually for higher studies. Most of these go to polytechnic schools, and a few go to medical schools and law schools. They are chosen by examination in which a leading role is played by Communist fanaticism and devotion to the regime.
111. Students are well fed and are provided with a special ration card. The students of the Unike receive 600 grams of bread daily and gymnasium students receive 900 grams. Free board is given to students who are indigent Communists or children of war dead or disabled or distinguished soldiers.
112. Education in the schools serves propaganda aims for the most part, and the training programs are announced in detail to the students who, through the Party "responsibles", check up on their teachers' faithful application of these programs. Special importance is ascribed to athletics, and in order to attract young men to them they are given additional food of superior quality.
113. The State offers all facilities for the training of the Youth, and throughout the country there are elementary schools for the compulsory education of illiterate adults. Parents are severely punished if they forbid their children to attend school. A father who prevents his children from attending the elementary schools is punished with a fine of 1000 lek and often with imprisonment.
114. The teachers in the cities are well-educated and very few of them are members of the Party. On the other hand the teachers in the villages are frequently graduates of the elementary school only and have been appointed after a three-month (sic) training course at Tirana, Vlone or Shkoder; they are usually members of the Party. Whenever the teachers in the cities do not apply the teaching program faithfully they come under the censure of the student-members of the Party "Section" of the school. The pay of teachers is not adequate (no figures given).

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M. Health and Social Welfare

115. The health of the Albanian people is very poor because of under-nourishment, particularly among the youth, where 60 percent of those under 18 years of age are tubercular according to statistics of the Director of the Tirana Hospital [REDACTED] Since January 1950 exanthematic typhus has spread dangerously in Albania. 25X1X
116. Medical care is furnished free of charge to the indigent without there being an organized system of social security. The physicians are paid government employees working in the State Hospitals. In addition they have a private practice at prices fixed by the State (30-50 lek for a visit). There is a special tax on doctors' incomes from their private practice, and for that reason the doctors keep separate books for their calls.
117. There are no private clinics but only State Hospitals, of which the most important are the following:
- a. Gjinokaster, 100-120 beds.
  - b. Vlone, 100-150 beds (insane asylum).
  - c. Tirana, 800 beds (lying-in hospital and sanatorium).
  - d. Durres, 200-300 beds.
  - e. Shkoder, 200-300 beds.
  - f. Elbasan, 100-150 beds.
  - g. Berat, 100-150 beds.
  - h. Korce, 100-150 beds (sanatorium).
- Also hospitals at Gjinokaster and Theologos have been completed recently. There are smaller hospitals (20-30 beds) in Sarande, Policani, Kurvelesh, and other smaller towns.
118. All the hospitals in Albania are full. The indigent receive treatment in them free of charge. For those able to pay, the price varies from 100-300 leks per day. To receive treatment it is necessary to have a certificate of indigency approved by the Komitet; this is given by preference to Communist government employees.
119. Medical care in the hospitals, because of the lack of private incentive, is furnished carelessly by the State physicians, of whom there is a noticeable shortage. There are Soviet doctors in most of the hospitals; they receive 20,000 leks, whereas the Albanian physicians receive 3,000-4,000 lek.
120. In addition in each Lokalitet there is a kind of public health station whose personnel consists of a nurse, a midwife, and an official responsible for public health. The last named sees to the cleanliness of the villages, annual compulsory vaccination against various diseases, etc.
121. In Fier and also in Durres there is a home for the aged. Admission to either of these homes requires a certificate of indigency, but very few even of the most indigent care to enter the homes.

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N. Religion

122. The church and all questions pertaining to it are supervised by a special service in the office of the Prime Minister which has the title Dega e Shenjt. This service is divided into three sections: Moslem (Djame Ikisbet), Catholics, and Orthodox. The Albanian population is 67 percent Moslem, 20 percent Orthodox and 13 percent Catholic.
123. Six months ago Christofer Kisi was removed as Archbishop of the Albanian Autocephalous Orthodox Church because he was discovered to be in contact with the Patriarchate of Istanbul. He was replaced by Pais Vodica who is connected with the Church of Moscow; a fanatical Communist, he has completely subjected the church to the domination of the regime.
124. The Secretary is named Nikotsanis. The priests are government employees to all intents and purposes.
125. The liturgy in Northern and Central Albania is in Albanian, but in Southern Albania it is in Greek.
126. The leader of the Moslems is Baba Ahmeti<sup>13</sup>, a Communist residing in Tirana. His subjection to the regime is complete. The Moslems for the most part are opposed to the regime and belong to the faction of ex-King Ahmet Zog.
127. The Catholics are the most fanatical enemies of the regime. Almost no Catholics are serving as officers in the Albanian Army. The Catholic priests are persecuted for the most part, and all of them are under the constant surveillance of the Sigurimi.
128. Ostensibly the practice of religion is free. The churches exist and services are held regularly, but actually nobody dares to attend them except the old women, who, because of their great age, are less afraid of the consequences of manifesting their religious feelings. The State has taken all measures to separate the people from their religion, and it works for the complete financial abandonment of the churches, constant surveillance of all types of worship, and their gradual abolition.
129. The priests are paid by the State, but their pay is lower than that of the humblest workman. At Party meetings the bitterest criticism is directed at those who dare to manifest their religious faith even as a mere formality.
130. The Sigurimi maintains an alert surveillance over all the movements of devout persons, and any excuse will do to drag them off to the jails that are waiting for them. Corresponding to these tactics and to their anti-religious propaganda, the Communists make a great show of trampling on everything sacred and holy in the Christian tradition. Their marriages are performed outside the ecclesiastical canons through a simple declaration made at the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Komitet. They have abolished the baptism of children, and again by a simple declaration they give them Russian names like Stalin, Molotov, Sokolov, etc.
131. Church leadership in Albania offers no resistance, but hymns the praises of the Hoxha regime, and the people, though faithful, cannot offer any resistance because they know that if they did they would suffer in prison.

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O. Minorities

132. The behavior of the Albanian Government towards the Greek minority is good, and it can be said that there is no official persecution of the Greeks as Greeks. To be sure the Northern Epirotes are under constant surveillance by the Security Police, who are well aware of their sentiments and are looking for the slightest excuse to intervene. In all disputes being a Northern Epirote is a great disadvantage.
133. There are elementary schools in all the villages, with compulsory teaching of the Albanian language. There are also Greek Unike in Policani, Vullarates, Sopiki, Himarra, Delvine, and Konispoli. There is only one Greek Gymnasium, located at Gjinokaster.
134. The Greek minority is regarded by the Party as the most reactionary faction in Albania, and it is a fact that with the exception of the village of Drompolis the Northern Epirotes are almost all fanatical anti-Communists. Only a very few of those in the villages have become members of the Party.
135. The number of Chams scattered throughout Albania is estimated at 20,000 to 25,000. The majority of them are located in Vlone, Fier and Tirana. The State takes no special care of them, except that it has installed them on farms so that they can satisfy their minimum requirements for food and shelter. They enjoy the same privileges and rights as Albanian citizens, but they do not have to serve in the Albanian Army because of their Greek origin.
136. Those who sponsored the unsuccessful attempt to conscript and enlist the Chams in the so-called Democratic Army of Greece were Muharrem Demi from Filiates and his cousin, a captain in the police, and Rexhep Iso, a member of the City Committee of Tirana.

P. Internal Resistance

137. The indignation of the people, particularly of the peasants, against the regime has reached such a point that it is problematical whether the terrorism of the State can continue to restrain them much longer. The miserable economic situation, heavy taxation, the pompous propaganda which is barren of results, the difference in treatment of non-Communists, the suspicion and mutual distrust, the war against religious beliefs, and finally the hateful terrorism of the Sigurimi have created an atmosphere unfavorable to the Hoxha regime.
138. There are no organized resistance forces in Albania, but the passive resistance of the people demonstrated in various ways is notable. Failure to pay taxes and the consequent frequent jail sentences, failure to attend Party meetings, frequent desertions from the Army, and mass flights from Northern Albania to Yugoslavia (estimated at more than 10,000) are characteristic of the prevailing situation. It is also significant that recently strange rumors have circulated throughout all Albania about expected events, some of these rumors specifying the day of liberation. A recently circulating rumor about the liberation of Albania from the Communist yoke put the date at about the middle of March, but this was later postponed to the middle of May.
139. Besides this fatalistic stand (sic) of the Albanian people there are not a few cases in which the indignation against the regime is revealed. Such are the failure to fulfill the State plans; the attack in Glina against police where they were driving State flocks to pasture; the murder of the Deputies of Shkoder, Bardiki, and Biha, and of Captain Class A' Nuri Luci in Kruja about the end of December 1949; and the increasing activity of armed Nationalist guerrillas.

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140. Informant has heard that, chiefly in Northern Albania and to a less extent in Central and Southern Albania, there are isolated nationalist guerrilla bands of four to six men each. These men are fugitives from "justice," deserters from the Army, etc. Their activity is limited, and there is no liaison between the bands. Their leaders are not known.
141. There is some organized nationalist activity directed by Muharem Bajraktari, Mul Bajraktari, and others located in Prizren, in Yugoslav Kosovo. Bands from there, allegedly organized in squads, platoons and companies, have reached as far as Shkoder and then returned. Their mission is to distribute proclamations and to do sabotage. They avoid fighting with the Albanian Army except when it cannot be helped. They also enlighten the people and organize movements of families into Yugoslavia. They then train the men and put them into bands, while the Yugoslav Government takes care of their families. Persons who for one reason or another cannot follow them remain at home and serve as informants. It should be noted that all (sic) the inhabitants of the countryside of Northern Albania have hidden arms since the time of the German occupation.<sup>14</sup>
142. Not only Albanian refugees but also the Albanian inhabitants of Yugoslav Kosovo are said to have been organized in bands. They act together, and their officers are old and young officers and non-commissioned officers of the Albanian Army. The guerrillas of Prizren wear the uniform of the Yugoslav soldier and it is said that they are well fed and receive high pay. Informant is unable to furnish any information about their arms.
143. Informant has also heard that Hamit Matjani and Abas Kupa are organizing armed bands in Greece that operate in the vicinity of Elbasan. He also heard that recently there was a clash in Nivica near Tepeleni between Albanian government forces and a guerrilla band under Izet Bolena.

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144.

- a. The movement of Koci Xoxe to overthrow Hoxha and the organization to effect this had penetrated into all sectors of administrative and Party activity as well as the Army. The organization penetrated the government and Party even down to the villages, which was easy because of the position which Xoxe held in the government. It is impossible to draw up a definite plan of this conspiratorial organization, because it kept changing according to circumstances and according to the ability and trustworthiness of the persons whom Xoxe recruited.
- b. The Central Committee of Xoxe's organization consisted of the following persons: Koci Xoxe; Pandit Kristo, member of the Politburo, chairman of the Control Committee (sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment); Vasko Koleci, Vice-Minister of Interior (15 years' imprisonment); Kristo Themelko, Vice-Minister of War (removed from his position, and now in the Mihal Guri printing shop); Pellumb Dishnica, Colonel and Commissar of the General Staff (expelled from the Party and dismissed from his position); Zihni Muco, General Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister (expelled from the Party and now in charge of loading and unloading ships at Durrës); Nesti Kerenchi, chairman of the Committee on the Plan (removed); Bajram Sinan Orneri, Director of Personnel of the Central Committee (now manager of the State farm); Xoxe Blussi, member of the Central Committee and of the Politburo without vote (now assistant manager of the central machine shops of Tirana); Naxhije Dume, member of the Central Committee and Minister of Education (now excluded from all responsible service); Vangjo Mitroqjorgo, chief of an espionage group (five years' imprisonment).

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- c. Below the Central Committee the organization branched out and had self-sufficient sections in the Sigurimi, in the government, in the Party, and in the Army. In the Sigurimi the most important followers of Xoxe were Vasko Koleci, Ilako Polena (expelled from the Party), Vangjo Mitroqjorgo, and Myftar Tare (now assistant manager of the printing office of Mihal Guri). In the Government and the Central Committee Xoxe had the men mentioned above. In the Army there were Kristo Themelko, Pellumb Dishnica, Tahir Kadareja (Colonel, Staff Adviser; now removed from the Central Committee but promoted to General and Commander of the Artillery); Lefter Kasneci, Lieutenant Colonel (now in the Soviet Union for training). The above had developed the organization according to their functions in the various sectors of the Komiteto.
- d. The activity of the members of the Xoxe organization consisted in encouraging indignation against the regime through frequent arrests and tortures, particularly of Party members and followers of Hoxha, in the imposition of very heavy taxes, in assassinations, frequent death sentences, frequent arrests of suspects with adequate cause, and generally in everything that could create a movement against Hoxha that could be utilized at the proper moment.
- e. Koci Xoxe was in constant touch with Yugoslavia through the press representative of the Yugoslav Legation, Savo Bozidarovic. He had obtained the approval of Tito to send a Yugoslav division into Albania to oppose the expected Greek attack and also to cope with the Albanian Army. Because of the incompetence of Kristo Themelko the organization was rather weak in the Army.
- f. Most of the chief followers of Xoxe were ignorant of his ulterior aims, and they participated in his organization only to satisfy their personal ambitions. Those who knew most about Xoxe's plans were Vasko Koleci, Pellumb Dishnica, Nezel Argjiri, Ramadan Citaku (of the Ministry of Finance), Nesti Kerenxhiu, Naxhije Dume, Bajram Sinan Omeri, Vangjo Mitroqjorgi, Zihni Hago, Niko Opari (of the office of the Under-Minister of the Plan).
- g. The organization was finally uncovered by the Soviets who, after the apostasy of Tito, perceived that the policy advocated in Albania by Xoxe was very dangerous and closely connected with Yugoslav policy. This was revealed by the complete confession and betrayal of the whole plan by Vangjo Mitroqjorgi. If he had not confessed, the fate of Xoxe and his movement would probably have been different for lack of evidence.

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- 1 - Comment: On 5 July 1950 Radio Tirana announced that Tuk Jakova had succeeded Shehu as Minister of Interior, who in turn was reported to have succeeded General Hoxha as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of War; an official list of the new Albanian Government published the following day in the Albanian press, however, continued to give Hoxha and Shehu the same titles which they had held in the previous Government.  
25X1A
- 2 - Comment: Vasil Nathanail is presently the Albanian Minister in Moscow. At last report (22 April 1950) Koco Tashko was Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, but Mihail Prifti also bears that title.  
25X1A
- 3 - Comment: Beqir Balluku's position is believed to be rather that of Chief of Staff of the Albanian Army.

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- 4 - [REDACTED] Comment: Salih Ormani is understood to be in command of the regular Police, one of the principal divisions of the Ministry of Interior.  
25X1A
- 5 - [REDACTED] Comment: Kadri Hazbiu, with another Vice-Minister of Interior, Mihalld Zecishti, is in charge of the Directorate of State Security (Sigurimi), or Secret Police. In this the two Vice-Ministers are assisted by Begir Ndou.  
25X1A
- 6 - [REDACTED] Comment: Tuk Jakova was named Minister of Interior in the place of Mehmet Shehu, according to the Tirana Radio on 5 July 1950.  
25X1A
- 7 - [REDACTED] Comment: According to Tirana broadcast of 5 July 1950, Ilias Peka is Minister of Agriculture, and Tashko is Minister of Forestry.  
25X1A
- 8 - [REDACTED] Comment: Abedin Shehu is reported to have been shot and killed by Mehmet Shehu in March or April 1950. The present Minister of Communications is believed to be Major General Shefqet Peci.  
25X1A
- 9 - [REDACTED] Comment: The present Minister of Industry is believed to be Rita Marko, preceded by Tuk Jakova and Gogo Nushi.  
25X1A
- 10 - [REDACTED] Comment: It is believed that the Komitete have been officially supplanted by the "Rrethet" (Prefectures).  
25X1A
- 11 - [REDACTED] Comment: Brother of Vasil Nathanail (see Washington Comment 2 above).  
25X1A
- 12 - [REDACTED] Comment: See paragraph 102.  
25X1A
- 13 - [REDACTED] Comment: According to other information, Baba Ahmeti is the leader of the Bektashi sect rather than of the Moslems as a whole.  
25X1X
- 14 - [REDACTED] inaccuracy, it is included in this report as being indicative of the sort of rumors now prevalent in Albania. For example: Muharem Bajraktari is in Greece, where he has been for some time, and Abas Kupa is in Italy, while we have no previous record of Mul Bajraktari or Izet Bolena.  
25X1A
- 15 - [REDACTED] Comment: Evidently the "Ministry of the Plan" is the agency generally known as the State Planning Commission.

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